

Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY – PHILO

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 Applied and Fine Arts Division
 Business and Foreign Language Building, Room 204

Possible career opportunities

For those who wish for a career in philosophy, teaching and research at the university level is an attractive option. There is also an emerging demand for experts in applied ethics, especially in the areas of medical, business, environmental ethics, law, politics and information technology. Most career options will require an advanced degree.

Program-level student learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes are subject to change. The most current list of program learning outcomes for each program is published on the DVC website at www.dvc.edu/slo.

Associate in arts degree in philosophy

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.
- B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.
- C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.
- D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

The Philosophy Department views critical thinking and reflection about distinctively human issues to be central to human existence and well-being. Students able to think and articulate viewpoints clearly and in an informed fashion not only enhance their own life, but contribute significantly to interpersonal relationships and social existence, including in the realm of political, economic, cultural, and social institutions.

The program prepares students with effective thinking and communication skills, which are useful in many fields including business, sales, writing, teaching, legal profession, political campaigning, news reporting, and other fields in which critical thinking and eloquent articulation of viewpoints is required

Although this program is not designed as a transfer program, selected courses in the program do meet general education and lower division requirements for the bachelor of arts degree at many California State University and University of California campuses. Consult with department faculty and the counseling department for more information. DVC philosophy students who intend to transfer must consult with a program adviser or counselor to ensure that the requirements for transfer to the baccalaureate institution of their choice are met.

Students who intend to transfer area advised to select either General Education Option 2 (IGETC) or Option 3 (CSU GE). General Education Option 1 (DVC General Education) is appropriate for students who do not intend to transfer.

To earn an associate in arts degree with a major in philosophy, students must complete five core courses (15 units total) supplemented by a set of restricted electives from which students select one course (3 units). Students must complete each course used to meet a major requirement with a grade of "C" or higher and also maintain an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher in the coursework required for the major. Certain courses may satisfy both major and general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once.

| <i>major requirements:</i> | | <i>units</i> |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| PHILO-120 | Introduction to Philosophy..... | 3 |
| PHILO-122 | Introduction to Ethics..... | 3 |
| PHILO-130* | Logic and Critical Thinking | 3 |
| PHILO-224 | History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period | 3 |
| PHILO-225 | History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present | 3 |

| <i>plus at least 3 units from:</i> | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| PHILO-140 | Introduction to Judeo-Christian Tradition | 3 |
| PHILO-141 | Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion | 3 |
| PHILO-160 | Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy | 3 |
| PHILO-220 | Comparative Religions..... | 3 |
| total minimum required units | | 18 |

**This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122.*

Associate in arts in philosophy for transfer

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.
- B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.
- C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.
- D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

Philosophy

The humanities and philosophy department views critical thinking and reflection about distinctively human issues to be central to human existence and well-being. Students who are able to think and articulate viewpoints clearly and in an informed fashion not only enhance their own lives, but contribute significantly to interpersonal relationships and social existence, including in the realm of political, economic, cultural, and social institutions.

The associate in arts in philosophy for transfer is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor's degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing this degree are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major. The associate in arts in philosophy for transfer is consistent with the mission of the community college to assist students in achieving a seamless transfer to the CSU system.

In order to earn the degree, students must:

- Complete 60 CSU-transferable units.
- Complete the California State University-General Education-Breadth pattern (CSU GE-Breadth); or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern, including the Area 1C requirement for Oral Communication.
- Complete a minimum of 18 units in the major.
- Attain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
- Earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses required for the major.

Students transferring to a CSU campus that accepts the degree will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree. This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system, or those students who do not intend to transfer.

Students must complete each course used to meet a major requirement with a "C" grade or higher. Some courses in the major satisfy both major and CSUGE/IGETC general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once toward the 60 unit requirement for an associate degree. Some variations in requirements may exist at certain four-year institutions; therefore, students who intend to transfer are advised to refer to the catalog of the prospective transfer institution and consult a counselor.

major requirements:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| at least 3 units from: | | units |
| PHILO-120 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3 |
| PHILO-122 | Introduction to Ethics | 3 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| plus at least 3 units from: | | |
| PHILO-130* | Logic and Critical Thinking | 3 |
| PHILO-170 | Symbolic Logic | 3 |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| plus at least 3 units from any course above not already used or: | | |
| PHILO-224 | History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period | 3 |
| PHILO-225 | History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present | 3 |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| plus at least 6 units from any course above not already used or: | | |
| PHILO-141 | Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion | 3 |
| plus at least 3 units from any course above not already used or: | | |
| PHILO-220 | Comparative Religions | 3 |
| total minimum required units | | 18 |

*This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122.

**Certificate of achievement
Philosophy**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. use their critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate both formally and informally, arguments and positions taken regarding various philosophical topics.
- B. compare and contrast various philosophical perspectives, both historically and in the context of larger philosophical texts.
- C. recognize and explain the integration of philosophical perspectives and ideas in selected cultural, historical, and thematic contexts.
- D. demonstrate their ability to articulate clearly in oral and written form an objective analysis of major works from the various philosophic and religious literatures.

To earn a certificate of achievement in philosophy, students must complete four core courses (12 units). The certificate program courses also count towards the "major" that is required for the associate in arts degree in philosophy.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| required courses: | | units |
| PHILO-120 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3 |
| PHILO-122 | Introduction to Ethics | 3 |
| PHILO-130* | Logic and Critical Thinking | 3 |
| PHILO-224 | History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period | 3 |
| total minimum required units | | 12 |

*This course has a prerequisite of ENGL-122.

PHILO-120 Introduction to Philosophy

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course carefully and critically examines the most basic of human beliefs. Logic, epistemology, metaphysics, value theory (ethics and aesthetics), and philosophy of religion are explored at an introductory level. The vocabulary of philosophy and techniques of inquiry are included. C-ID PHIL 100, CSU, UC

PHILO-122 Introduction to Ethics

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course is a systematic examination of major ethical theories, the nature of moral reasoning, as well as the evaluation of contemporary moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. C-ID PHIL 120, CSU, UC

Philosophy

PHILO-130 Logic and Critical Thinking

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course introduces students to the principles of inductive and deductive inference and their practical applications in everyday situations such as problem solving and evaluation of arguments. The uses of language, formal and informal fallacies, syllogistic argument forms and scientific method will be examined. Additional emphasis is placed on developing the ability to integrate the principles of critical thinking with the techniques of effective written argument. C-ID PHIL 110, CSU, UC

PHILO-140 Introduction to Judeo-Christian Tradition

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course presents a critical examination of history, theology, literature, and traditions of Judaism and Christianity. CSU, UC

PHILO-141 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course presents an introduction to the nature of religion. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of central themes including revelation, faith, and miracles and issues such as the problem of evil, and the relationship between religion and science. CSU, UC

PHILO-145 Introduction to Asian Philosophy

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 122 or equivalent

This course presents an introduction to the major philosophies of Asia. Topics include the primary philosophies of India, China, and Japan. Emphasis will be on the metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical traditions in India, China, and Japan. CSU

PHILO-150 Topics in Philosophy

.3-4 units SC

- Variable hours

A supplemental course in philosophy to provide a study of current concepts and problems in philosophy and related subdivisions. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU

PHILO-160 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: PHILO-120 or equivalent

This course is an introduction to the major authors, central issues, and political and philosophical perspectives as presented through classical and contemporary reading selections. Philosophers studied include Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, Rawls and Nozick. Topics include the nature of democracy, fascism, justice, rights, law, liberty, political authority, political principles, and consequences, with an emphasis on understanding these political theories as normative rather than descriptive. Critical analysis of each perspective in political philosophy will be engaged. CSU, UC

PHILO-170 Symbolic Logic

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: PHILO-130 or equivalent; eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course introduces the principles of valid deductive reasoning and includes a study of formal techniques of sentential and predicate logic. Students will learn how to use truth-tables for propositional connectives and interpretations for statements of first-order logic using mathematical theory. The conclusion of the course will engage students in issues such as the completeness of propositional calculus, "fuzzy logic," and deontic logic. C-ID PHIL 210, CSU, UC

PHILO-220 Comparative Religion

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

The religious thought, experience, and ethical teachings of living religions of the world are examined, discussed and compared. Religions, which may be discussed, include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. CSU, UC

PHILO-224 History of Western Philosophy: Pre-Socratic to Medieval Period

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course considers the philosophy of the pre-Socratic, Golden Age of Greek philosophy, and the Hellenistic and Medieval periods. C-ID PHIL 130, CSU, UC

PHILO-225 History of Western Philosophy: Descartes to Present

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course examines continental rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz), British empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, and Hume), Kant, 19th century and 20th century philosophy. C-ID PHIL 140, CSU, UC

PHILO-298 Independent Study

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent*
- *Note: Submission of acceptable educational contract to department and Instruction Office is required.*

This course is designed for advanced students who wish to conduct additional research, a special project, or learning activities in a specific discipline/subject area and is not intended to replace an existing course. The student and instructor develop a written contract that includes objectives to be achieved, activities and procedures to accomplish the study project, and the means by which the supervising instructor may assess accomplishment. CSU

PHILO-299 Student Instructional Assistant

.5-3 units SC

- *Variable hours*
- *Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.*

Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU